

CONGRATULATING VALMONT ON
THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CEN-
TER PIVOT IRRIGATION

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2004

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member congratulates Valmont Industries as it celebrates the 50th anniversary of center pivot irrigation.

The introduction of center pivot irrigation in 1954 proved to be a crucial development in agricultural production across the U.S. and around the world. Although these irrigation systems are now a common sight on farms throughout the globe, it is important to remember the vision and determination that led to this innovation half a century ago.

The wide use of center pivot irrigation systems has resulted in increased agricultural yields and greater water conservation. The growing emphasis on water quality and quantity issues have resulted in even greater demand for center pivot irrigation systems, which can now be found throughout the U.S. as well as Africa, Europe, the Middle East, Latin America, China, Australia and elsewhere. Valmont can certainly take great pride in the role it has played in facilitating crop production in a more environmentally friendly manner.

Although now a worldwide operation, Valmont's Nebraska roots remain firmly in place. Valmont Industries, which is headquartered in Omaha, Nebraska, and has its primary manufacturing facility in Valley, Nebraska, now operates 34 facilities located in 14 countries. The company's name is a combination of the two Nebraska communities on either side of the first Valmont plant—Valley and Fremont. Valmont has more 5,200 employees worldwide, with about 1,500 located in Nebraska. This Member is pleased to note that Valmont operates two plants in his congressional district—one in West Point and another in Waverly.

The success of Valmont has truly been a company-wide team effort. However, this Member would like to specifically commend and congratulate Mogens Bay, Valmont's Chairman and CEO; Terry McClain, Senior Vice President and CFO; Bob Meaney, Senior Vice President; and Tom Spears, President of the Irrigation Division. Certainly, this Member would also like to extend his thanks and congratulations to Bob Daugherty, Valmont's founder.

COMMUNITY CHURCH 50TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate The 121 Community Church on its outreach mission and dedication to the community. Five years ago, friends Ross Sawyers and Michael Moss founded a church in a living room. Today, 121 Community Church has volunteers all over the world including Australia, Guatemala, Mexico and Russia. Church membership has grown from 50 mem-

bers to 400. On Sunday mornings, anywhere from 600 to 750 people attend the three Sunday services.

In celebration of their fifth anniversary, the members of 121 Community Church wanted to do something truly unique. They decided to model a service project after the popular cable TV show, Trading Spaces. The project, called "Aiding Spaces," provides free renovations to five families who cannot afford proper renovations. The families will be selected from five different areas of the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The renovations will be filmed by video crews and be created into a mini reality television series that will be aired at the churches 50th Anniversary celebration in September.

Church membership includes a number of general contractors, electricians and plumbers will lend their services. Their donated work is estimated at nearly \$150,000.

I congratulate the efforts of 121 Community Church and their generous celebration. I am certain they continue their wonderful community outreach projects in the future. Through their church, members are able to make a substantial difference in each other's lives. The church should take pride in its hard work and commitment to service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. I rise to offer a personal explanation. On Thursday, July 15, I was unavoidably absent for Rollcall No. 384, to table the appeal of the Ruling of the Chair.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no".

TRIBUTE TO MISHELLE
TOWNSEND

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2004

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside County, CA, are exceptional. We have been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give of their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Michelle Townsend is one of these individuals.

Mischelle Townsend has lived and worked in the Inland Empire most of her life. Today she retires from public service, where she will be greatly missed.

Mischelle Townsend came to Riverside County after five years working with the aerospace industry, North American Rockwell Corporation, including direct support of the Apollo Project. She then entered the public sector, where her time and talent has been vital to the growth of the Inland Empire. She has a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Redlands and a Masters in Public Administration from California State University, San Bernardino.

Twenty-two years Riverside County has been privileged to have Mischelle Townsend,

as the Executive Officer of the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). LAFCO is a state regulatory commission responsible for jurisdictional changes such as the incorporation of new cities, annexations and formation of new special districts. Under Mischelle's tenure at this agency, three cities were established in seven years: Moreno Valley, La Quinta and Cathedral City.

Mischelle Townsend later served six years as Assistant Chief Administrator Officer, where her responsibilities included: preparation of Riverside County's annual budget, development of policy recommendations from 33 county departments and agencies, administration of an \$18 million Special District Augmentation Fund, preparation of the annual Capital Improvements Program, and chairmanship of various task forces and policy advisory committees.

She then moved onto Director of Riverside County's General Services Agency and eventually moved into her current position as Registrar of Voters on July 31, 1997. As Registrar of Voters, Mischelle has been widely recognized as an innovator in modern election services.

Outside of the office, Mischelle has been equally giving of her talents. Her community involvement includes, but is not limited to: President of the Executive Council for the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA/Inland Empire); Vice President/Volunteer Personnel for the Inland Empire Chapter of the Boy Scouts of America; past member of the Board of Directors for Alternatives to Domestic Violence; Soroptomist International of Riverside; and, active member of Crossroads Christian Church.

Mr. Speaker, Mischelle Townsend's tireless passion for her profession and community has contributed immensely to the betterment of the Inland Empire, California. She has been the heart and soul of many innovative projects and events and I am proud to call her a fellow community member, American, and friend. I know that the community is equally grateful for her service and salute her as she retires from professional service.

CONGRATULATING SISTER MARY
SIMON ON RECEIVING JUDITH
STANLEY COLEMAN AWARD
FROM THE VISITING NURSES AS-
SOCIATION OF CENTRAL JERSEY

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2004

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sister Mary Simon for receiving the Judith Stanley Coleman Award from the Visiting Nurses Association of Central Jersey. The award is given annually to a community leader who exemplifies a positive attitude, significant service in health care, vigilance and passionate advocacy for community health issues, and strong networking in the community. Sister Simon is a tremendous person whose heart is full of compassion for her fellow humans and she fully deserves of this prestigious award.

Sister Mary Simon has taught in various grammar schools throughout the diocese of Trenton over the past 19 years. In 1975, upon